Topic 6 Discussion 2

As information security professionals, it is important to have a good understanding of some unusual terms. Compare and contrast the following pairs of terms with definitions and examples: anonymity and pseudonymity; tracking and surveillance.

Hello Class,

Anonymity vs. Pseudonymity - Anonymity refers to the complete absence of personally identifiable information (PII). An anonymous user is untraceable. For example, using Tor to access a website provides a degree of anonymity (Dingledine et al, 2004). Pseudonymity, however, involves using a false name or identity to mask one's true identity. Think of online forums where users choose nicknames; this is pseudonymity. While it offers a degree of privacy, it's not true anonymity as the user is still potentially identifiable through other means like IP address or posting history. The key difference is that anonymity aims for complete untraceability, while pseudonymity seeks to conceal one's real identity but leaves a trail that could potentially lead back to the true identity.

Tracking vs. Surveillance - Tracking focuses on monitoring an individual's actions or movements, often in a specific context. For instance, tracking a package using a shipping company's website is a form of tracking. Surveillance, on the other hand, is a broader term that encompasses the systematic observation of a person, group, or area, often for security or investigative purposes. Examples of surveillance include CCTV cameras in public spaces or monitoring employee computer activity. While tracking often forms a part of surveillance, surveillance is a more encompassing term that can include other methods beyond simply tracking movements. Surveillance can involve data collection and analysis, whereas tracking is primarily concerned with the location or progress of a specific item or person. (Lyon, 2014).

References:

Dingledine, R., Mathewson, N., & Syverson, P. (2004). *Tor: The Second-Generation Onion Router*. *13*. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/2910678\_Tor\_The\_Second-Generation\_Onion\_Router

Lyon, D. (2014). Surveillance, Snowden, and Big Data: Capacities, Consequences, Critique. *Big Data & Society*, *1*(2). https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951714541861